

CANNOCK URBAN DISTRICT  
COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

together with the Report of the

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

1943



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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman: MR. COUNCILLOR A. HAMPTON

Vice-Chairman: MR. COUNCILLOR JOS. HAMPTON

MR. COUNCILLOR A. BAILEY

MR. COUNCILLOR A. E. BEDDOW, M.C., M.B.E.

MR. COUNCILLOR F. HURMSON, J.P.

MR. COUNCILLOR J. JAMES

MR. COUNCILLOR J. PHILLIPS

MR. COUNCILLOR T. WHITEHOUSE

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE

Chairman: MR. COUNCILLOR A. HAMPTON

Vice-Chairman: MR. COUNCILLOR JOS. HAMPTON

All the members of the Public Health Committee, with the following co-opted Members:—

Mrs. A. Hudson

Mrs. Jackson

Mrs. W. Ingham

Mrs. Hodgkiss

#### PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health : W. F. GAPPER, B.Sc., M.B.,  
Ch.B., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officer : P. S. WARREN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Dental Surgeon : G. WILLIAMSON, L.D.S.

Dental Attendant : MRS. N. T. BUTLER.

Senior Sanitary Inspector and Shops Act Inspector : FRED TURNER,  
C.R.S.I., Certificate of Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

Additional Sanitary Inspector : JOSEPH BALL, C.R.S.I.

#### HEALTH VISITORS

MISS E. FRIENDSHIP, C.M.B., S.R.N., Health Visitors' Certificate.  
Superintendent of Health Visitors and School Nurses.

MRS. D. ROBINSON, C.M.B., State Registered Nurse.

MISS F. M. NIXON, C.M.B., Health Visitor's Certificate, S.R.N.

#### PART-TIME OFFICERS

Oculist : G. F. HAYCRAFT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.O.M.S.

Surgeon for Nose and Throat : F. W. SYDENHAM, F.R.C.S., Ed.  
(died April, 1943).

Orthopaedic Surgeon : ERNEST A. FREEMAN, F.R.C.S., M.B., B.S.

Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon : W. L. THOMAS, F.R.C.S., D.L.O.

Orthopaedic Masseuse : MISS F. M. BARNES, C.S.M.M.G.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Cannock  
Urban District Council*

Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting this, my eighth, Annual Report on the health of the district for the year 1943.

Both the Infant Mortality Rate and the Maternal Mortality Rate are the lowest ever recorded in this district. Never before in the history of Cannock has the Infant Mortality Rate been below 50.

The response of parents to have their children immunised is very gratifying. Parents of children, a year old and over, should arrange to have them immunised so as to eliminate, if possible, diphtheria as a cause of death of any child in this district.

I wish to record my thanks to you, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, for your courtesy and kind consideration to me throughout the year.

I also wish to express my gratitude to my staff and the Sanitary Inspectors for their ready and valuable assistance at all times.

My sincere thanks are due to the other Council Officials and their staff, General Practitioners, Midwives, District Nurses, the Inspector of the N.S.P.C.C. and the voluntary workers at the Welfare Centres for their co-operation and help so willingly given.

I am, Your obedient servant,

W. F. GAPPER,

Medical Officer of Health

## SECTION A—Statistics and Social Conditions

### VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

Area of the district (excluding area covered by water) ... ..	acres	8,155
Total Population at all ages at 1931 Census ...		35,300
Registrar-General's estimate of population to middle of the year ... ..		37,310
Rateable Value, 1st April, 1944 ... ..	£	156,286
Product of Penny Rate ... ..	£	609
Nett Births ... ..		789
Birth Rate (live and still-births) per 1,000 of estimated population ... ..		21.15
Nett Deaths allocated to the district :—		
Under one year of age ... ..		34
At all ages ... ..		404
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births) ...		44.27
Death Rate (at all ages) ... ..		10.83
Number of inhabited houses (according to Rate Books) at end of year ... ..		9,509
Amount paid in Poor Law Relief :—		
Cannock District ... ..	£	2,234 9 10
Hednesford District ... ..	£	2,201 18 11

### SOCIAL CONDITIONS

There was no evidence of undue poverty in the district. Unemployment figures were not available for publication. Housing conditions are very unsatisfactory. At present several houses are occupied by more than one family apart from the number of recently married women who reside either with relatives or in rooms and whose husbands serve their country away from home. The latter will naturally desire a home of their own when hostilities have ceased and the housing problem will become more acute than it is even at present.

### EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

The natural increase of population shown as excess of births over deaths is 364. The Registrar-General's estimate of population for the middle of the year is less by 10 than that of the previous year.

			Total	M	F
Live Births, legitimate	...	...	732	383	349
Live Births, illegitimate	...	...	36	20	16
Still Births, legitimate	...	...	21	12	9
Still Births, illegitimate	...	...	—	—	—

Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population (live and still births)	...	...	...	...	21.15
Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population (live births)					20.58
Birth Rate per 1,000 for England and Wales (live births)					16.5
Birth Rate per 1,000 for England and Wales (still births)					0.51
Birth Rate per 1,000 resident population (still births)	...				0.56

			Total	M	F
Total Deaths	...	...	404	226	178

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	...	...	10.83
Death Rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	12.1

Area Comparability Factors have been suspended for the time being.

#### MATERNAL MORTALITY

			Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still births)	
				Cannock	Eng. & Wales
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	—	—	0.73
Others	...	...	1	1.27	1.56
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...		1	1.27	2.29

#### INFANT MORTALITY

Deaths under one year of age :—

	Deaths	Cannock	Eng. & Wales
All Infants per 1,000 live births	34	44.27	49
Legitimate Infants per 1,000			
legitimate live births	30	40.98	—
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000			
illegitimate live births	4	111.11	—



					Rate per 1,000 of estimated population	
					Cannock	Eng. & Wales
Cancer	...	...	...	50	1.34	—
Measles	...	...	...	0	—	0.02
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	0	—	0.03
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	0	—	0.00
Diphtheria	...	...	...	4	0.11	0.03
Influenza	...	...	...	19	0.51	0.37
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) per 1,000 live births				5	6.5	5.3

## SECTION B

### General Provision of Health Services for the Area

The Health Services functioned as in past years.

#### WORK OF HEALTH VISITORS

Ante-Natal Visits :—

Primary	...	...	...	...	46
Re-visits	...	...	...	...	42
Primary visits to infants	...	...	...	...	721
Re-visits to infants	...	...	...	...	5,444
Re-visits to infants according to age :—					
Under one year	...	...	...	...	1,729
One to two years	...	...	...	...	1,171
Two to three years	...	...	...	...	917
Three to four years	...	...	...	...	843
Four to five years	...	...	...	...	784

Ophthalmia :—

Primary	...	...	...	...	4
Re-visits	...	...	...	...	4

#### WELFARE CENTRES

Centre	Sessions held	Primary Attendances of Infants		Total Attendances	
		Under 1 year	1—5 years	Under 1 year	1—5 years
Cannock	48	139	10	2,167	715
Hednesford	48	146	15	2,075	934
Chadsmoor	48	201	11	2,762	508
Heath Hayes	48	78	9	1,466	591
Totals	192	564	45	8,470	2,748

## ANTE-NATAL CLINICS

Two clinics are held, one at Cannock on alternate Friday mornings and one at Chadsmoor every Thursday morning; additional clinics had to be held on alternate Friday mornings at Chadsmoor. Changes will be made in the coming year, when clinics will be held at Chadsmoor and Cannock on alternate Friday mornings and every Thursday morning at Hednesford.

	Chadsmoor	Cannock	Total
Primary Attendances ... ..	425	124	549
Re-attendances ... ..	1,239	379	1,618
Post-natal ... ..	11	1	12
Total attendances ... ..	1,664	503	2,167
Number of Sessions ... ..	70	26	96
Average No. per Session ... ..	24	19	—
No. of Cases referred to Consultant	27	9	36
No. of ante-natal cases referred to Consultant by Private Practitioners			18
Patients showing abnormalities ...	104	27	131

One session per week is allocated by the dentist for dental treatment for expectant and nursing mothers.

The Dentist reports :—

143 new patients were seen at the special clinic for mothers.  
472 total visits were made, of which 57 were purely for examination.

### TREATMENT GIVEN

Extractions ... ..	901
General Anaesthetics given ... ..	112
Scaling ... ..	42
Sundry operations ... ..	36
Patients fitted with dentures ... ..	35
Repairs ... ..	8
Visits for construction of Dentures and Repairs ... ..	204

Pre-school children referred to the dentist by Medical Officers and Nurses were seen by him at sessions held on Saturday mornings. He reports :—

No. of patients attended ... ..	26
Extractions ... ..	51
General Anaesthetics ... ..	16
Other operations ... ..	3

## INFANT LIFE PROTECTION

Nine children were on the register at the end of the year, to whom a total of 86 visits were paid throughout the year.

### BOARDED-OUT CHILDREN

One visit was paid to a child on behalf of the Public Assistance Committee.

### PUERPERAL PYREXIA

Seven cases were notified, of whom five were removed to hospital. All recovered satisfactorily.

The arrangements with the Women's Hospital, Wolverhampton, were the same and as satisfactory as in the past years.

### MATERNAL MORTALITY

There was one fatal case, a woman aged 21, a primipara, who was admitted to the Women's Hospital, failing delivery at home. She died, after the child was born, from obstetric shock. She failed to make full use of ante-natal supervision available which might have been of help in the confinement.

The Maternal Mortality for this year is the lowest on record, being slightly less than the previous record in 1941, when there was one fatal case out of 756 births in comparison with one fatal case out of 789 births for this year. This is in marked contrast with the previous year of 1942, when the Maternal Mortality was 8.75.

It is regrettable that no volunteers were available for the home help scheme. Applications for helps were received but none could be supplied.

### INFANT MORTALITY

As in previous years, the main cause of death was premature birth, when there were ten deaths of the total of 34. Six died of digestive causes, 5 of bronchitis or broncho-pneumonia, three of birth injuries, two of marasmus and two of congenital causes. The following were the causes of death of one infant respectively:—Influenza, Intussusception, atelectasis, starvation, convulsions, and inanition. 25 deaths occurred in a month or under and 15 of these within a week of birth.

Never before in the history of this district has the infant mortality rate been under 50; the previous lowest record was the previous year, when it was 52.0 in comparison with 44.27 for this year. The Infant Mortality rate for England and Wales was 49.

## OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

Four were notified, three of whom were removed to hospital and one treated at home. They all recovered without any damage to their eyes.

## TREATMENT OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE

174 children were treated at special clinics as follows:—  
Squint 7; orthopaedic 121; aural defects 20; dental 26.

## WAR-TIME NURSERIES

The three day residential nurseries established in the district carried out their work satisfactorily. Each nursery can cater for forty children and it is to be hoped that parents will avail themselves of the full use of these nurseries.

# SECTION C—Sanitary Circumstances

## WATER

All dwellings, factories, etc., within the area are supplied with water by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Co., except the following:—

One house obtains water from a well.

Two houses are supplied from springs where water is collected in shallow wells.

Fourteen houses obtain water from a nearby colliery.

The Waterworks Company kindly submit a monthly report on the chemical and bacteriological condition of the water at their various reservoirs.

Six samples of water were submitted during the year by the Sanitary Inspector for chemical and bacteriological examination. Two samples showing evidence of slight or remote sewage pollution were dealt with after consulting those concerned.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Same arrangements existed as in previous years.

## RIVERS AND STREAMS

The three samples of river water submitted for chemical analysis were all found satisfactory.

## CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

	End of 1942	End of 1943
Water Closets ... ..	10,207	10,300
Waste Water Closets ...	392	348
Dustbins ... ..	9,487	9,487
Privies ... ..	10	10
Privy Ashpits ... ..	4	4
Privy Pans ... ..	155	155
Dry Ashpits ... ..	—	—

## OFFICES

Twenty-two visits were paid to Offices, and improvements to sanitary accommodation were made at certain premises where both sexes were being employed.

## CAMPING SITES

Only one official camping site exists within the area, which is the Boy Scouts' Camp at Beaudesert Park. This is kept in excellent condition, with a satisfactory water supply and sanitary arrangements. When in use, arrangements are made for the collection of refuse and food waste.

## PUBLIC CLEANSING

The work is carried out by employees of the Council under the control of the Surveyor.

While some consideration has been given to the matter of tipping sites, it will be necessary for the Council to make more definite and concrete proposals regarding the future of this problem.

## SCABIES AND VERMINOUS PERSONS

All cases of scabies and other verminous persons brought to our notice were either treated or advised regarding treatment, at home or at the clinics. An appointment was made by the Education Committee of a lady to deal with all children found to be verminous. She examines periodically all children at school and arranges the necessary treatment either at home or at the clinics. Adults found infested at the home were also treated by her.

# SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

## 1.—THE NUMBER AND NATURE OF INSPECTIONS MADE BY THE SANITARY INSPECTORS

### Inspection of Dwelling Houses :—

	(1) Housing Inspections	...	...	...	21
	(2) District Inspections	...	...	...	3317
„	„ Bakehouses	...	...	...	...
„	„ Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	45
„	„ Cowsheds	...	...	...	210
„	„ Dairies	...	...	...	215
„	„ Milk Shops	...	...	...	41
„	„ Milk Bars	...	...	...	3
„	„ Milk Floats	...	...	...	46
„	„ Restaurant Kitchens	...	...	...	39
„	„ Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	41
„	„ Shops	...	...	...	221
„	„ Meat Shops	...	...	...	991
„	„ Grocers Shops	...	...	...	542
„	„ Slaughter Houses	...	...	...	167
„	„ Meat Distribution Centre	...	...	...	196
„	„ Markets	...	...	...	385
„	„ Factories	...	...	...	57
„	„ Knacker's Yard	...	...	...	51
„	„ School Sanitary Conveniences	...	...	...	38
„	„ Public Conveniences	...	...	...	47
„	„ Works for abatement of nuisances	...	...	...	1236
„	„ Works for abatement of housing repairs	...	...	...	507
„	„ Complaints investigated	...	...	...	66
„	„ Cinemas	...	...	...	4
„	„ Water Courses	...	...	...	24
„	„ Tips	...	...	...	14
„	„ Living Vans	...	...	...	10
„	„ Sewage Disposal Works	...	...	...	3
„	„ Pit-Head Baths	...	...	...	3
„	„ Canal Boats—Wharves	...	...	...	22
„	„ School Air-Raid Shelters	...	...	...	31
„	„ Camping Grounds	...	...	...	5
„	„ Mortuaries	...	...	...	15
„	„ Making-up Rooms (Food)	...	...	...	212
„	„ Egg Depot	...	...	...	14
„	„ Ministry of Food Depots	...	...	...	30
„	„ Canteens	...	...	...	13
„	„ Premises under Rats and Mice Dest. Act	...	...	...	107



Inspection of Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	...	89
„ „ Static Water	...	...	...	...	...	15
„ „ Meat Stalls	...	...	...	...	...	251
„ „ Offices	...	...	...	...	...	22

## 2.—THE NUMBER OF NOTICES SERVED DURING THE YEAR

Informal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	276
Statutory, Public Health Act, 1936	Sec. 44	...	...	...	...	...	26	
„	„	„	„	„	Sec. 83	...	...	2
„	„	„	„	„	Sec. 84	...	...	I
„	„	„	„	„	Sec. 93	...	...	51
„	Housing Act, 1936,	Sec. 66	...	...	...	...	24	
„	„	„	„	Sec. 9	...	...	12	

## 3.—RESULT OF SERVICE

Number of nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	70
Notices not complied with	...	...	...	...	...	3

## SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS AT FACTORIES

Improvements found necessary, including cleansing, repairing, limewashing and provision of sanitary and washing accommodation, were carried out where it was found necessary.

## OUTWORKERS

No notices were received during the year.

## BAKEHOUSES

Windows cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	3
Doors cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	3
Floors cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	5
Apparatus cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	3
Yards cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	3

## SECTION D—Housing

No houses were built either by the Local Authority or by private enterprise.

## FITNESS OF HOUSES

Twenty-one houses were inspected, all of which were damp but clean and not overcrowded. The number of persons per house was 3.85 with 1.17 rooms per person, or 81 persons to 95 rooms (40 living rooms and 55 sleeping rooms).

Further statistics are given in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

## OVERCROWDING

No. of cases on books at end of year	...	...	...	...	31
No. of cases dealt with	...	...	...	...	44
No. of overcrowded cases abated—					
From Council Houses	...	...	...	...	2
From Private Houses	...	...	...	...	11
No. of new cases reported to the Medical Officer of Health during 1943	...	...	...	...	22

## DANGEROUS BUILDING

Two dwelling houses were demolished owing to their dangerous condition.

## SECTION E—Inspection and Supervision of Food

Details are given in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

## SECTION F—Infectious Diseases

### DIPHTHERIA

There were 82 cases notified compared with 129 in the previous year. Four cases were fatal. 81 clinical diphtheria cases and 7 carriers were removed to hospital.

### IMMUNISATION

During the year 711 children under five and 1,071 children between five and fifteen years of age were immunised. At the end of the year, approximately 2,330 children or 69% of the children under five, and 5,790 children or 89% of those between five and fifteen were immunised. The parents have responded well, as in the case of children under five only those a year old and over were immunised while the total number of children under five has been considered in calculating the percentage. On the basis of the number of children age one to four (inclusive), approximately 87% have been immunised.



## SCARLET FEVER

257 cases were notified, 80 of whom were removed to hospital. There were no fatal cases.

## CEREBRO-SPINAL MENINGITIS

Two cases were notified, a child just under two years of age who recovered, and a woman aged 37 who was removed to the isolation hospital, where she died.

## ENTERIC FEVER

One case of Sonne Dysentry was notified from Stafford General Hospital of a man aged 72, who recovered.

## PNEUMONIA

27 cases of primary Pneumonia were notified. There were 16 fatal cases from all forms of Pneumonia, the same as in the previous year.

## MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH

75 cases of Measles and 74 of Whooping Cough were notified. There were no fatal cases of either disease.

## CANCER

There were 50 deaths from Cancer, one more than in the previous year.

## TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods	NEW CASES				Total	DEATHS				Total
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		
	M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F	
0—1	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1—5	...	1	1	...	2	...	1	2	1	4
5—15	1	3	2	2	8	...	...	...	...	...
15—25	1	2	...	3	6	4	4	...	...	8
25—35	6	2	...	2	10	2	...	...	...	2
35—45	3	1	1	...	5	3	1	...	...	4
45—55	4	...	...	...	4	3	1	...	...	4
55—65	1	1	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	1
65 up	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Totals	16	10	4	7	37	14	7	2	1	24

There were 21 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis and 3 from non-pulmonary tuberculosis, two more pulmonary and three more non-pulmonary than in the previous year.

There were one more male and four less female pulmonary cases notified during the year, while there was one more male and six more female non-pulmonary cases notified.

The total number on the register at the end of the year was 267, being 187 males and 80 females.

The Health Visitors paid 28 primary and 495 re-visits.

Sleeping accommodation of the pulmonary cases visited:—

Patients having a bed and room to themselves ...	40
Patients occupying a separate bed but sharing a room	12
Patients occupying a bed with others ... ..	63

Notice of admission to Institutions was received as follows:—

Groundslow Sanatorium ... ..	2
Prestwood Sanatorium ... ..	8
Himley Sanatorium ... ..	3
Standon Hall Sanatorium ... ..	1
Kinver Sanatorium ... ..	1
Woodlands Hospital ... ..	1

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or the Public Health Act, 1936.

#### CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1943

	Males	Females
1. Typhoid and Para-typhoid Fever ... ..	—	—
2. Cerebro-Spinal Fever ... ..	—	1
3. Scarlet Fever ... ..	—	—
4. Whooping Cough ... ..	—	—
5. Diphtheria ... ..	2	2
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	13	8
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis ... ..	2	1
8. Syphilitic ... ..	—	—
9. Influenza ... ..	10	9
10. Measles ... ..	—	—
11. Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio-encephalitis	—	—
12. Acute Infective Encephalitis ... ..	1	—
13. Cancer of Buc. Cav. and Oesoph (M) Uterus (F) ... ..	—	2
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	4	6
15. Cancer of Breast ... ..	—	7
16. Cancer of all other sites ... ..	19	12

17.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1	5
18.	Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	...	...	...	...	12	14
19.	Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	35	29
20.	Other diseases of Circ. System	...	...	...	...	18	17
21.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	16	9
22.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	9	7
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	—	3
24.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	...	...	1	—
25.	Diarrhoea under 2 years	...	...	...	...	5	—
26.	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	—	2
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	7	2
28.	Nephritis	...	...	...	...	4	7
29.	Puerperal and Post-Abort. Sepsis	...	...	...	...	—	—
30.	Other Maternal causes	...	...	...	...	—	1
31.	Premature Births	...	...	...	...	4	5
32.	Congenital Malformation, birth inj., infant dis.	...	...	...	...	7	3
33.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	1	1
34.	Road Traffic Accidents	...	...	...	...	2	—
35.	Other Violent Causes	...	...	...	...	14	1
36.	All other causes	...	...	...	...	39	24
Totals						226	178

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

*To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health  
Committee*

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I herewith submit to you a report of the work performed by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year 1943.

### NUISANCES AND OTHER MATTERS DEALT WITH

Foul drains, water closets, cesspools, sinks, urinals	...	...	56
Insufficient water closets and drains	...	...	106
Accumulations of manure and other offensive matter	...	...	3

Animals so kept as to be a nuisance	...	...	...	...	6
Dirty dwelling houses	...	...	...	...	17
Dwelling houses needing repairs	...	...	...	...	143
Dwelling houses overcrowded	...	...	...	...	24
Living vans without sanitary and washing accommodation					4
Number of nuisances and other matters reported during the year	...	...	...	...	298
Number of Notices served	...	...	...	...	276
Number of Statutory Notices served under Section 93, P.H.A., 1936	...	...	...	...	51
Number of Statutory Notices served under Section 44, P.H.A., 1936	...	...	...	...	26

#### PRINCIPAL STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT

44	Water closets substituted for 44 waste water closets.
7	Additional water closets provided.
286	Dustbins substituted for 286 worn-out dustbins.
6	New drain inspection chambers.
4	Drain ventilating shafts.
142	Yards of new glazed stoneware drains laid on 16 premises.
19	New water closet pedestal pans fitted.
8	New flushing apparatus fitted to water closets.
5	Water closets cleared.
36	Drains cleared.
5	New inspection chamber covers.
48	Water closets put in order.
4	Drains repaired.
2	New water closets provided for 2 dilapidated water closets.
16	Water closet flushing apparatus repaired.
1	New urinal provided.

#### SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

There are only 10 privies left in the area; these are situated at properties which have been dealt with by way of the Housing Act and will be demolished at some future date. The sanitary accommodation in the area is chiefly of the W.C. pedestal pan type; there are a few waste water closets and these are being converted at a reasonable rate.

Dustbins are supplied by the Council under a scheme and during the year 286 dustbins were supplied to replace worn-out dustbins.

The scheme is operating fairly well, but there is a difficulty in getting a supply of dustbins from the manufacturers as all bins are sold under a licence.

## PUBLIC SANITARY CONVENIENCES

These premises are situated in the busy shopping centre, Playing Fields and Parks; they are inspected frequently. A workman cleans all the conveniences daily. There are certain conveniences which are still mis-used by certain people.

## SCHOOL SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

All the conveniences at the Schools are of a modern type. Frequent inspections are made, and they are found to be in a clean condition.

All defects and other matters found are reported to the Director of Education.

## AIR RAID SHELTERS

The sanitary accommodation in these places are chemical closets. These premises are inspected very often, and in some shelters the conditions of the floors, seats and sanitary conveniences are found to be fouled. The Council employ a workman to clean these places at frequent intervals.

## SCHOOL AIR RAID SHELTERS

The shelters at the Schools are inspected and cleansed by a workman from the Public Health (Sanitary) Department; the conveniences are of the chemical closet type. No complaints have been received of any damage to shelters.

## RENT AND MORTGAGE INTEREST RESTRICTIONS ACTS, 1920 TO 1939 SECTION 2 (2) OF ACT, 1920

Five applications were received from tenants under the above-mentioned Acts, and each case was considered in a report submitted, and in each case a certificate was granted.

## HOUSES IMPROVED

Houses re-spouted	...	...	...	...	...	...	44
Houses re-pointed or cemented	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	101
Walls and ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	150
Chimneys repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

New wood floors and wood floors repaired ... ..	7
Quarry and brick floors repaired ... ..	3
New firegrates fitted or repaired ... ..	13
Windows repaired, made to open, sashcords & fasteners fitted	67
New doors and doors repaired ... ..	10
Handrails fixed on staircases ... ..	1
New sinks fitted or repaired ... ..	19
Coppers and fireboxes repaired ... ..	14
Yards paved ... ..	3
Burst water service pipes repaired ... ..	16
Stairs (treads and risers) repaired ... ..	5

## HOUSING STATISTICS

### 1.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	169
(b) Number of inspections made for that purpose ...	507
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-heading (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... ..	21
(b) Number of inspections made for that purpose ...	75
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	5
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive to those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	164

### 2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers ... ..	148
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### 3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	12



(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners     ...     ...     ...     ...     ...	11
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Act.	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied     ...     ...     ...     ...     ...	151
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners     ...     ...     ...     ...     ...	137
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made     ...     ...     ...	—
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...     ...     ...     ...	—
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made     ...     ...     ...     ...     ...     ...	—
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit     ...     ...     ...     ...     ...     ...	—

## RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919

### THE INFESTATION ORDER, 1934

The work of inspection of premises to ascertain if any were infested with rats or mice was put in hand in the latter part of the year.

No serious infestations were found, and in the cases where rats and mice were found advice was given to occupiers to carry out certain instructions and in each case good results were obtained.

Two members of the staff have been trained in this work. They attended a special course of instructions by the Ministry of Food Infestation Control.

The premises such as food stores, cowsheds, slaughter-houses, piggeries and stables have come up for special inspections; also brook courses have been visited and action taken where it was found necessary.

#### LIVING VANS AND TENTS

The number of living vans in the area has decreased; two have left the district and one has recently arrived. In the latter case an application was made for a license to use land as a site for moveable dwellings by the owner of the land; also an application was made for a station and use of a moveable dwelling on this land by the owner of the van. These applications were considered and a license was granted in each case for a period of one year.

#### MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

	December, 1943			
Licenced Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	25
Visits to Meat Shops	...	...	...	991
Visits to Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	167

#### TOTAL—UNSOUND FOOD

	Weight lbs.					
Bovines—Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	28
Pigs—Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	588½
Pigs—Other Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	110
Other Foods	...	...	...	...	...	5074¼
Total						5800¾

Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
2	11	3	4¾

#### SLAUGHTER-HOUSES AND BUTCHERS' SHOPS

The number of Slaughter-houses, Butchers' Shops and Meat Stalls in the area are as follows :—

Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	25
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	47
Meat Stalls	...	...	...	9

#### SLAUGHTER-HOUSES, MEAT SHOPS AND MEAT VANS

There has been no slaughtering of animals intended for human consumption taking place in any slaughter-house in this area since January, 1940, with the exception of pigs slaughtered for private owners and in which the carcase and organs were for their own consumption.



During the year, 810 pigs were slaughtered under licence from the Ministry of Food. It was necessary to condemn certain carcasses, parts of carcasses or organs which were found to be unfit for human consumption; these are included in the list of unsound food.

I find that in most cases the pigs are slaughtered and cured at home, and it was necessary in four cases to condemn the bacon and hams cured owing to same being rancid and sour, which was due to not having proper facilities for curing the bacon and hams.

The meat supplied by this area is sent from the Government Slaughter-house, Walsall, to a meat distribution centre in Cannock. All meat and offals are inspected and any found to be diseased or unfit for human consumption is returned to Walsall.

Meat shops, making-up rooms, restaurants and kitchens all come in for frequent visits, and they are found to be in a clean and satisfactory condition.

Meat Stalls.—These are situated in the open Market Places; the majority have been found to be left in a clean and tidy condition. In one case a strict warning to a stall-holder was given by the Public Health Committee as to the future conduct of the premises.

TABLE FROM CIRCULAR No. 1650

No records are kept in regard to this Circular, because no slaughter-houses are used for the slaughter of animals intended for sale for human consumption.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933

Two new licences were granted to persons employed in the meat trade and 51 licences were renewed during the year.

KNACKER'S YARD

These premises are situated in the Bridgtown Ward; they are inspected weekly; the premises are always found to be left in a clean condition.

COMMON LODGING HOUSE

There is only one Common Lodging House in the area; these premises are always found to be very clean.

Number of visits     ...     ...     ...     45

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE  
CONTROLLED BY BY-LAWS OR REGULATIONS AND  
UNDER REGULAR INSPECTION

Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	58
Purveyors of milk from other districts selling milk in this area								39
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Meat Stalls	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	55
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Mortuaries	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Knacker's Yard	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Common Lodging House	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	79

CANAL BOATS

No registered canal boats were inspected during the year. The boats passing through our canals in this area were chiefly coal boats.

During the year, 22 visits were made to the following Wharves :—

- 5 to Walk Mill Wharf.
- 10 to Hednesford Wharf.
- 4 to Leacroft Wharf.
- 3 to Churchbridge Locks.

MOTOR AMBULANCES

The Council have two motor ambulances. In the past year the number of cases of sickness and accidents removed to hospital was 1,196. The number of miles registered was 21,582, or 18.3 miles per journey.

The ambulances are adequately disinfected and cleansed after each journey. The drivers continue to carry a full complement of first-aid requisites.

On 50 occasions the ambulances were both out on removal of cases to hospitals at the same time.

FISH FRIERS

There are 55 fish friers in the area; these premises are found on inspection to be kept in a satisfactory manner.

Each shop has a modern stove and these have been found to be kept clean and in satisfactory repair.

## DISINFESTATION

The number of Council Houses found to be infested ...	2
The number of Council Houses disinfested ... ..	2
The number of other houses found to be infested ...	6
The number of other houses disinfested ... ..	6

All these houses have been treated with an insecticidal fluid, and all bedding and soft furnishings from these houses were dealt with by means of steam disinfection. The whole of the work was carried out by the staff of the Public Health (Sanitary) Department.

## STEAM DISINFECTOR

The steam disinfector at the Council's Depot was used for disinfecting 2,350 articles.

Number of days disinfector in use ...	162
Gas masks disinfected ... ..	311

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

### ICES AND ICE CREAM

52 premises are registered to prepare to sell ices and ice cream in the area; no ices or ice cream have been made during the year.

### SAUSAGES

Five samples of sausages were submitted for chemical analysis; all the samples except one complied with the Statutory Rules and Orders, 1941, Section 3.

The one case had an excess meat content; this case was reported to the Food Executive Officer.

## MILK

There are 30 registered Milk Producers on the Register; these are set out in the following table :—

Wholesalers ... ..	11
Wholesalers and Retailers ... ..	6
Retailers ... ..	11

The number of milking cows kept is 327, or an average of 11.67 per farm. Included in these are 28 producers; 13 are accredited producers. There are also 58 Dairies and Milk Shops in the area and 39 Retailer Purveyors who deliver milk in this area but whose premises are outside our area. The work of inspection of cowsheds, dairies and milk sampling takes up a considerable part of the Inspectors' time.

Cowsheds are visited during the early mornings and late afternoons to see what conditions are like and to take samples of milk for bacteriological examination. Producers are advised on all matters in relation to the production of milk, and each one is advised to instal a steam sterilizing chest, and to use it daily and well maintain it, because I have stressed the point that milk can become unsatisfactory through being put into churns, hand-cans and bottles which have not been properly sterilized.

Reports received on unsatisfactory milk samples are followed up by taking further samples at the time of milking.

Every Producer or Retailer from whom samples of milk are obtained are notified of the results of the examination. Improvements have been carried out at 12 farms; in one case a cowshed which was too small for the accommodation of milking cows and which was not satisfactory as regards structure was demolished and a new modern shed was erected; at another farm an existing building was converted into a cowshed which has proved to be very satisfactory to the Producer and the Authority.

The number of samples taken are as follows :—

Producers in the area	...	...	68
Producers from outside the area	...	...	4
Retailers in the area	...	...	106
Retailers from outside the area	...	...	23

The results of the examinations were :—

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Produced in the area	60	8
Produced outside the area	4	0
Retailers in the area	72	34
Retailers from outside the area	19	4

Where milk is found to be unsatisfactory and which is produced outside the district, a letter and copy of the report is sent to the Sanitary Inspector for that particular area.

Of the 38 unsatisfactory samples of milk taken from Retailers, the milk from 37 samples was produced outside the area.

11 samples of milk were taken for acidity test and fat content.

The acidity tests varied from  $13\frac{1}{2}$  to  $16\frac{1}{2}$ ; the other results proved genuine.

#### MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) ORDER, 1936

The following licences have been granted to sell the under-mentioned designated milks :—

Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	5
Accredited	...	...	...	1
Pasteurised	...	...	...	3

## SCHOOL MILK SUPPLY

The milk supplied to the Schools is a designated milk, "Pasteurised," which is supplied by a firm of milk contractors whose dairy is outside this area. During the year 66 samples of milk were obtained and submitted for bacteriological examination on the same morning as obtained. Twenty samples of milk were found to be unsatisfactory as regards bacteriological count per c.c. and presence of certain coliform organisms; all samples passed the phosphatase test with the exception of one. In all cases where samples were found to be unsatisfactory a letter and a copy of the report received from the Bacteriological Department was sent to the Contractors and Licencing Authority who granted the licence.

The licencing Authority in whose district the firm's dairy is situated has been helpful in clearing up matters in relation to unsatisfactory milk which has been found from time to time.

Two samples of milk were also taken and submitted for chemical analysis; both samples were satisfactory.

## SHOPS ACT, 1912—1938

Visits have been made to the various shops in the area to check up the working hours of young persons employed; the various tradesmen have complied with these requirements fairly well.

Visits have also been made during evenings and week-ends; the shops are closing earlier and not much Sunday trading is taking place. Inspection of sanitary and washing accommodation has been made and these have been found to be clean and satisfactory.

## GAS DECONTAMINATION STATION

These premises are situated at a slaughter-house (disused) in Short Street, Blackfords. The equipment is up to date and to the requirements of the Ministry of Food.

Eight men are in the squad and practices take place at frequent intervals. The premises are drained to the sewer, there is ample water supply and the building is well lighted and ventilated; the yard is a large open space paved with concrete.

## OFFICES

22 Offices have been inspected; these have been found to be satisfactory as regards light, ventilation, sanitary and water supply, except in one case where there was no sanitary accommodation for female staff; in this case a new water closet was provided.



## CONCLUSION

There has been a constant change in the clerical staff in this Department; no less than three changes have taken place during the year.

The Office accommodation is a difficult problem, as the whole of the staff is in one room, and interruptions often take place when one is endeavouring to concentrate on important reports. Further, it is a disadvantage when any Member or Chief Official of the Council or other persons desire to interview me, and I trust that some improvement in this direction will be made.

The work of the Department has been done with every care and attention to all details whether small or large. The inspection of meat and other food continues to take up a large part of the Inspectors' time. Every Sunday a large consignment of English meat has to be inspected at the Meat Distribution Centre in Market Hall Street, Cannock.

The additional work which was put in hand under the Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919, and the Infestation Order, 1943, has called for special inspection of all premises to be made and records kept.

In conclusion, may I again pay tribute to the support which I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, all other members of the Council who are not members of the Public Health Committee, also the Medical Officer of Health (Dr. Gapper), Chief Officials and my colleagues in the Public Health Department, to whom I tender my sincere thanks.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

F. TURNER,

*Chief Sanitary Inspector.*



